

## Voters back abortion rights, but some foes won't relent

By JULIE CARR SMYTH and  
CHRISTINE FERNANDO

Associated Press

**COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP)** — The statewide battles over abortion rights since the U.S. Supreme Court overturned a constitutional right to abortion have exposed another fault line: the commitment to democracy.

As voters in state after state affirm their support for abortion rights, opponents are acting with escalating defiance toward the democratic processes and institutions they perceive as aligned against their cause.

Certain Republican elected officials and anti-abortion activists around the country have responded to losses at the ballot box by challenging election results...



Ohio State Rep. Jennifer Gross, R-West Chester, holding a "Choose Life" sign, center, joined by Ohio State Rep. Adam Bird, R-New Richmond, left, and Ohio State Rep. Thomas Hall, R-Madison Township, right, stand together on stage during the Ohio March for Life rally at the Ohio State House in Columbus, Ohio, Oct. 6, 2023.

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# Biden pardons National Thanksgiving Turkeys while marking his 81st birthday with jokes about his age

By DARLENE SUPERVILLE  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Turkeys Liberty and Bell have new appreciation for the phrase, "Let freedom ring." The Thanksgiving birds played their part Monday in annual White House tradition that this year coincided with President Joe Biden's 81st birthday: a president issuing a pardon and sparing them from becoming someone's holiday dinner.

First, Biden — the oldest president in U.S. history — wanted to make light of his age.

"By the way, it's my birthday today," the president said, noting that guests with him in the Oval Office be-

fore the event sang "Happy Birthday." "I just want you to know, it's difficult turning 60. Difficult."

He also noted that the presentation of a National Thanksgiving Turkey to the White House has been a tradition for more than seven decades.

"This is the 76th anniversary of this event, and I want you to know I wasn't there .. for the first one," Biden said. The Democrat's age has become an issue as he seeks reelection next year. Before issuing the pardons, Biden said that although Liberty and Bell are Minnesota natives, they were named for the Liberty Bell in Philadelphia.

"These birds have a new

appreciation of the word, 'let freedom ring,'" he said, adding that they love Honeycrisp apples, ice hockey, a thousand lakes and the Mall of America — all things the Midwest state is famous for.

They overcame "some tough odds" to make it to the White House, Biden continued, saying "they had to work hard to show patience and be willing to travel over a thousand miles." He suggested their feat probably was harder than getting a ticket to Beyonce's Renaissance Tour or "Britney's tour, she's down in, it's kind of warm in Brazil right now." He apparently mixed up his female pop stars; Taylor Swift was in



President Joe Biden stands next to Liberty, one of the two national Thanksgiving turkeys, after pardoning them during a ceremony on the South Lawn of the White House in Washington, Monday, Nov. 20, 2023. Also pictured is Jennie-O Turkey Store Vice President Jose Rojas, left.

Associated Press

Brazil over the weekend for her Eras Tour; Britney Spears currently is not on tour.

"Look folks, based on their commitment to being productive members of society as they head to their new home at the University of Minnesota ... I hereby pardon Liberty and Bell. Congratulations, birds!" Biden declared.

Hundreds of guests, including Cabinet secretaries and White House staff who brought children, watched from the South Lawn as Biden kicked off the unofficial start of Washington's holiday season. His granddaughter Maisy Biden watched from the sidelines with her half-brother Beau Biden. After the ceremony, Beau was led over to pet one of the turkeys.

Later Monday, Biden's wife, first lady Jill Biden, was accepting the delivery of an 18.5-foot (5.6-meter) Fraser fir from Fleetwood, North Carolina, as the official White House Christmas tree.

Steve Lykken, chairman of the National Turkey Federation and president of the Jennie-O Turkey Store, told The Associated Press in an interview last week that the pardons are a "great way to kick off the holiday season and really, really a fun honor."

Lykken introduced Liberty and Bell on Sunday at the Willard Intercontinental, a luxury hotel near the White House. The gobblers

checked into a suite there on Saturday following their red-carpet arrival in the U.S. capital after a dayslong road trip from Minnesota in a black Cadillac Escalade.

"They were raised like all of our turkeys, protected, of course, from weather extremes and predators, free to walk about with constant access to water and feed," Lykken said Sunday as Liberty and Bell strutted around the Willard's newly renovated Crystal Room on plastic sheeting laid over the carpet.

The male turkeys, both about 20 weeks old and about 42 pounds (19 kilograms), were hatched in July in Willmar, Minnesota — Jennie-O is headquartered there — as part of the "presidential flock," Lykken said. They listened to music and other sounds to prepare them for Monday's hoopla at the White House. "They listened to all kinds of music to get ready for the crowds and people along the way. I can confirm they are, in fact, Swifties, and they do enjoy some Prince," Lykken said, meaning Liberty and Bell are fans of Swift. "I think they're absolutely ready for prime time."

The tradition dates to 1947 when the National Turkey Federation, which represents turkey farmers and producers, first presented a National Thanksgiving Turkey to President Harry Truman. □

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# Voters back abortion rights, but some foes won't relent

Continued from Front Page

...refusing to bring state laws into line with voter-backed changes, moving to strip state courts of their power to consider abortion-related laws and challenging the citizen-led ballot initiative process itself.

"We.Are.Not.Done.," Ohio state Rep. Jennifer Gross declared on the social media platform X two days after voters enshrined the right to abortion in the state constitution earlier this month. She and 25 other Republican lawmakers vowed to block the amendment from reversing Ohio's existing abortion restrictions.

A strong majority of Ohio voters passed the amendment, by roughly 57% to 43%. In response, the group of lawmakers said in a joint statement: "We will do everything in our power to prevent our laws from being removed based upon perception of intent."

Gross joined three fellow Republicans to go even further, proposing legislation to prevent Ohio courts from interpreting any cases related to the abortion-rights amendment, known as Issue 1. Similar efforts have emerged in six other states since state courts became the new abortion battleground after the Dobbs decision on June 24, 2022, that overturned Roe v. Wade.

Douglas Keith, senior counsel to the Brennan Center for Justice's Judiciary Program, said abortion politics prompted successful efforts to limit the power of state courts in Montana and Utah and unsuccessful legislation in Alaska and Kansas. Such bills are attempts to dismantle the government's system of checks and balances, he said.

"An attempt to strip the courts' ability to interpret Issue 1 seems to me to be picking a fight with not just the courts, but with voters themselves," Keith said in reference to the Ohio amendment.

That conflict was on display during a town hall hosted by Gross after her efforts



Ohio State Rep. Jennifer Gross, R-West Chester, holding a "Choose Life" sign, fourth from left, stands on stage as Ohio Sen. Kristina Roegner, R-Hudson, speaks during the Ohio March for Life rally at the Ohio State House in Columbus, Ohio, Friday, Oct. 6, 2023.

Associated Press

to thwart the abortion-rights amendment were announced. A constituent who said she supported Issue 1, Emily Jackson, was incredulous.

"You're ignoring the voice. The voice is there," Jackson said. "We spoke."

Gross told Jackson she wasn't ignoring voters but rather was reflecting opponents' concerns that Ohio voters were led astray. The campaign drew big money from outside the state for both sides.

Gross did not return call and emails seeking additional comment.

Advocates contend that strict abortion laws also are undemocratic in the most basic sense because a majority of Americans oppose them. According to AP VoteCast, a nationwide survey of more than 94,000 voters, 63% of those who voted in the 2022 midterm elections said abortion should be legal in most or all cases. An Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research poll taken a year after the Supreme Court's decision found that about two-thirds of Americans overall said abortion should generally be legal.

In all seven states where abortion has been on the ballot since Roe v. Wade fell, voters have either supported protecting abortion rights or rejected an attempt to erode them.

That has led some Republicans who support abortion restrictions to target the ballot initiative process, a form of direct democracy that is available to voters in only about half the states.

"Thank goodness that most of the states in this country don't allow you to put everything on the ballot because pure democracies are not the way to run a country," said Rick Santorum, a former U.S. senator from Pennsylvania and one-time presidential candidate. He spoke about Ohio's election results during an appearance on the conservative site NewsMax. Another elected Republican, North Dakota state Rep. Brandon Prichard, weighed in on X, formerly Twitter, to encourage Republicans to defy the outcome of Ohio's election. "It would be an act of courage to ignore the results of the election and not allow for the murder of Ohio babies," he wrote.

Some political observers see a larger danger in such sentiments.

Sophia Jordán Wallace, a political science professor at the University of Washington, said "the frequency and the explicitness of these undemocratic attempts are increasing" and that they threaten to do long-term damage to American institutions and the public's faith in them.

"And that damage is incredibly difficult to undo," she said.

For many abortion opponents, the issue is "a sacred cause, the thing that cannot be argued with," one that may outweigh the importance of maintaining democratic practices, said Myrna Perez, associate professor of Gender and American Religion at Ohio University.

"Things aren't static, so you're trying to figure out a way to get the system to give you the results that you want," she said.

Andrew Whitehead, associate professor of sociology at Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis, said Christian nationalists, who have deep ties to the anti-abortion movement, have a history of viewing access to fundamental democratic processes such as voting not as a right but a privilege that should be afforded only to those who align with their beliefs.

"When it comes to enforcing their vision for America they think is ordained by God, they will set aside democracy," Whitehead said. Anti-abortion lawmakers and advocates already have pushed back in a handful of states where voters sided generally with abortion rights.

In Montana, voters last fall rejected a legislative referendum that would have

criminalized a doctor's or nurse's failure to provide lifesaving care to a baby born alive after an attempted abortion; such cases typically involve severe medical problems. Republicans countered by passing a version of the rejected measure into law.

Kentucky Republicans chose to leave intact a state ban on abortion at all stages of pregnancy, even though voters there defeated a measure that would have denied constitutional protections for the procedure.

In Ohio, some notable top Republicans are rejecting anti-democratic suggestions and standing up for voters.

"In this country, we accept the results of elections," said GOP Gov. Mike DeWine, a leading opponent of Issue 1. Republican Attorney General Dave Yost tweeted that he "scoured" the Ohio Constitution, but found "no exception for matters in which the outcome of an election is contrary to the preferences of those in power."

"All political power is inherent in the people," he quoted the document as saying.

Republican state legislative leaders initially pledged that the fight to restrict abortion rights wasn't over after voters had spoken. But as their party grapples with the anti-abortion movement's deep divisions, House Speaker Jason Stephens and Senate President Matt Huffman have appeared to soften their tone.

Stephens signaled he won't advance Gross's court-limiting bill. Huffman, a devout Catholic, walked back suggestions that he could pursue an immediate repeal of Issue 1.

They were among Ohio Republicans who defied their own law and called a special election in August aimed at raising the threshold for passing future constitutional amendments from a simple majority to 60%. □

# Michigan continues overhaul of gun laws with extended firearm ban for misdemeanor domestic violence

By JOEY CAPPELLETTI

Associated Press

LANSING, Mich. (AP) —

Michigan Democrats who have transformed gun laws in the state in the wake of multiple mass school shootings are now making it more difficult for individuals with convictions for misdemeanor domestic violence from gaining access to guns.

Gov. Gretchen Whitmer signed legislation Monday that prohibits individuals convicted of a misdemeanor related to domestic violence from possessing firearms for at least an eight-year-period. State law currently includes firearm restrictions for those with felonies related to domestic abuse, but no law had existed for misdemeanor domestic violence. "These bills are based on a simple idea: if you have been found guilty in court for violently assaulting your partner, you should not be able to access a deadly weapon that you could use to further threatened, harm or kill them." Whitmer said at a bill signing in Kalamazoo. "It's just common sense."

The eight-year ban for mis-



Michigan Gov. Gretchen Whitmer speaks to United Auto Workers members at a rally, Sept. 15, 2023, in Detroit.

Associated Press

demeanor domestic violence convictions is only the latest firearm restriction added to Michigan law since Democrats took control of both chambers of the state Legislature and retained the governor's office last election.

Legislation implementing red flag laws, stricter background checks and safe storage requirements were

all signed by Whitmer earlier this year. The overhauled gun laws follow two deadly mass school shootings that happened in Michigan within a 14-month period. Democratic State Sen. Stephanie Chang, a lead sponsor of the bill package, said Monday that the latest legislation would put Michigan in line with similar laws in 31 other states and the

District of Columbia.

Federal law already prohibits those charged with felonies or misdemeanors related to domestic violence from purchasing or possessing a gun. But advocates have pushed for state-level laws that they say can be better enforced and won't be threatened by future Supreme Court rulings.

Earlier this month, the Supreme Court took up a challenge to a federal law that prohibits people from having guns if they are under a court order to stay away from their spouse, partner or other family members.

The nation's high court heard arguments on Nov. 7 and seemed likely to preserve the federal law.

"As the Supreme Court weighs whether to uphold common-sense laws to disarm domestic abusers, Governor Whitmer and the Michigan legislature are taking a clear stand: If you have a history of intimate partner violence, you have no business owning a gun," John Feinblatt, president of Everytown for Gun Safety, said in a statement.

Firearms are the most common weapon used in homicides of spouses, intimate partners, children or relatives in recent years, according to data from the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Guns were used in more than half, 57%, of those killings in 2020, a year that saw an overall increase in domestic violence during the coronavirus pandemic. □

# After trying to buck trend, newspaper founded with Ralph Nader's help succumbs to financial woes

By DAVE COLLINS

Associated Press

HARTFORD, Conn. (AP) —

After trying to buck a national trend of media closures and downsizing,



Andy Thibault, Editor and Publisher of The Winsted Citizen, carries bundles of the paper into the Winsted News Co., Friday, Feb. 3, 2023, in Winsted, Conn.

Associated Press

a small Connecticut newspaper founded earlier this year with Ralph Nader's help has succumbed to financial problems and will be shutting down.

An oversight board voted Monday to close the Winsted Citizen, a broadsheet that served Nader's hometown and surrounding area in the northwestern hills of the state since February.

Andy Thibault, a veteran journalist who led the paper as editor and publisher, announced the closure in a memo to staff.

"We beat the Grim Reaper every month for most of the year," Thibault wrote. "Our best month financially re-

sulted in our lowest deficit. Now, our quest regrettably has become the impossible dream. It sure was great despite numerous stumbles, obstacles and heartaches while it lasted."

Nader, 89, the noted consumer advocate and four-time presidential candidate, did not answer the phone at his Winsted home Monday morning.

The Citizen's fate is similar to those of other newspapers that have been dying at an alarming rate because of declining ad and circulation revenue. The U.S. has lost nearly 2,900 newspapers since 2005, including more than 130 confirmed

closings or mergers over the past year, according to a report released this month by the Northwestern/Medill Local News Initiative.

By the end of next year, it is expected that about a third of U.S. newspapers will have closed since 2005, the report said.

In an interview with The Associated Press in February, Nader lamented the losses of the long-gone Winsted daily paper he delivered while growing up and a modern successor paper that stopped publishing in 2017.

"After awhile it all congeals and you start losing history," he said. □

## More than 200 convicted in Italy's maxi-trial involving the 'ndrangheta crime syndicate

By GIADA ZAMPANO and  
PAOLO SANTALUCIA

Associated Press

LAMEZIA TERME, Italy (AP) —

An Italian tribunal on Monday convicted 207 people and sentenced them to a combined 2,100 years in prison on charges related to their membership in Italy's 'ndrangheta organized crime syndicate, one of the world's most powerful, extensive and wealthy drug-trafficking groups.

It took over an hour and 40 minutes to read aloud the court's lengthy verdict, including the acquittal of 131 other defendants. The drama unfolded in a bunker-style courtroom in the southern Calabria region, where the mob organization was originally based. The 'ndrangheta has quietly amassed power in Italy and abroad as the Sicilian Mafia lost influence and now holds almost a monopoly on cocaine importation in Europe, according to anti-mafia prosecutors who led the investigation in southern Italy. The organization also has bases in North and South America and is active in Africa, Italian prosecutors maintain, and 'ndrangheta figures



President of the court judge Brigida Cavasino, center, flanked by judges Claudia Caputo, left, and Germana Radice, reads the verdicts of a maxi-trial of hundreds of people accused of membership in Italy's 'ndrangheta organized crime syndicate, one of the world's most powerful, extensive and wealthy drug-trafficking groups, in Lamezia Terme, southern Italy, Monday, Nov. 20, 2023.

Associated Press

have been arrested in recent years around Europe and in Brazil and Lebanon. The defendants had been charged with crimes that include drug and arms trafficking, extortion and mafia association, a term in Italy's penal code for members of organized crime groups. Others were charged with acting in complicity with the 'ndrangheta without

actually being a member. The charges grew out of an investigation of 12 clans linked to a convicted 'ndrangheta boss. The central figure, Luigi Mancuso, served 19 years in an Italian prison for his role in leading what investigators allege is one of the 'ndrangheta's most powerful crime families, based in the town of Vibo Valentia. Vincenzo

Capomolla, deputy chief prosecutor of Catanzaro, said prosecutors' overall case held up with the convictions and confirmed the stranglehold the 'ndrangheta held on Vibo Valentia. "The infiltration of the criminal organization in the province of Vibo Valentia was so deep-rooted and so widespread, so alarming, so disturbing that I think

it can be noted that there was no aspect of the life of the social economic fabric of the province that was not conditioned by the capacity of the force of intimidation of this so dangerous criminal organization," he said. Giuseppe Di Renzo, defense attorney for several of the defendants, however noted that more than a third of the original defendants were fully acquitted, while others were found not guilty of some charges. He criticized the disparate and large number of defendants, saying they showed there was no cohesive thread to the prosecutors' case. But Catanzaro's former chief prosecutor who launched the investigation, Nicola Gratteri, said mafia trials often have to cast wide nets because of the very nature of how the criminal syndicates operate, infiltrating across wide swaths of society. The trial took place in a specially constructed high-security bunker. Part of an industrial park in Lamezia Terme, the bunker is so vast that video screens were anchored to the ceiling so participants could view the proceedings. □

## A French bishop is accused of attempted rape in latest scandal to hit Catholic Church in France

PARIS (AP) — A French bishop has been given a preliminary charge of attempting to rape an adult



All of the bishops of France attend a mass in Notre-Dame Cathedral in Lourdes, southwestern France, on Nov. 9, 2019.

Associated Press

man a decade ago, the Paris prosecutor's office said Monday. It is the latest of a growing number of accusations of sexual abuse by clergy in France.

The Bishops' Conference of France said the accused bishop, Georges Colomb, contests the charge and deserves the presumption of innocence. He has asked the Vatican to step aside from his duties as bishop of La Rochelle and Saintes in western France to prepare his defense.

French investigative website Mediapart reported that senior figures in the Catholic Church were aware of the accusations

for years. The allegations didn't reach prosecutors until May of this year. That's when lawyers for the Archdiocese of Paris and a Catholic group called the Foreign Missions of Paris, shortened to MEP in French, submitted a report of a rape attempt by Colomb in 2013, according to the prosecutor's office.

Colomb headed the MEP from 2010 to 2016, and his accuser was staying in MEP facilities at the time of the incident, according to French media reports. Colomb became a bishop in 2016. As a result of the ensuing investigation, Colomb was detained for

questioning last week and magistrates filed a preliminary charge on Friday, the prosecutor's office said. Colomb is under judicial supervision and barred from contact with the victim or witnesses pending further investigation. His accuser has not been publicly named. After the alleged rape attempt, the man spoke about what happened to another official in the MEP, Gilles Reithinger. Reithinger told public broadcaster France-3 that the man said Colomb proposed an oil massage that made him uncomfortable but didn't mention any sexual wrongdoing. □

# A cholera outbreak in Zimbabwe is suspected of killing more than 150 and is leaving many terrified

By FARAI MUTSAKA

Associated Press

**HARARE, Zimbabwe (AP)**

— These days, Catherine Mangosho locks her 3-year-old grandson in the house for hours on end in an attempt to shield him from a deadly cholera outbreak in Zimbabwe.

The virulent bacterial disease is killing the young and the old in the southern African country, with health authorities reporting more than 150 suspected deaths and over 8,000 suspected cases since February.

Cholera has often broken out across Zimbabwe in recent years with deadly consequences and has surged and spread again over the last month, driven by the sometimes terrible sanitation conditions in poor, neglected townships and neighborhoods in the capital, Harare, and elsewhere.

Many like Mangosho, 50, fear their family might be next.

She points to a group of barefoot children playing street soccer near her house. The ball made from plastic bread wrappers frequently plunges into ponds



A cholera patient lies on a hospital bed, in Harare, Zimbabwe, Sunday Nov. 19, 2023.

Associated Press

of sewage. The children pick it out and continue their game.

"Those boys are playing with fire," she said. "We buried a boy from this area last week. He was playing soccer in the street just like these boys one day. He fell sick overnight and died at the hospital. They said it was cholera."

Since the start of the latest outbreak, Zimbabwe's

Health Ministry has recorded 8,087 suspected cholera cases and 1,241 laboratory confirmed cases. It said there have been 152 suspected cholera deaths and 51 laboratory confirmed deaths.

The country of 15 million people has been recording more than 500 cases a week since late October, the highest rate since February, said the International

Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies. The group made an emergency appeal this month.

Cholera is a water-borne disease caused by ingesting contaminated food or water and can kill within hours if left untreated, yet it is usually easily treated by rehydrating patients if cases are caught in time.

The World Health Organiza-

tion has said that cholera cases in Africa are rising exponentially amid a global surge. The African continent accounted for 21% of cases and 80% of deaths across the globe from 2014 to 2021, according to the WHO.

The outbreak in Zimbabwe is spreading from urban to rural areas and putting at risk over 10 million people, including more than 5 million children, said the Red Cross Federation.

It said major causes were poor hygiene, but also a lack of awareness and religious practices that include self-proclaimed prophets ordering sect members to rely on prayer and items such as holy water rather than seek medical treatment.

Cholera is now in all of the country's 10 provinces, Health Minister Douglas Mombeshora said at a clinic in the hotspot township of Kuwadzana in Harare this weekend.

At Kuwadzana Polyclinic, cholera patients lined up in a special tent set up for them and were given a cup of rehydrating sugar and salt solution on arrival. □

# Experts say a wall that collapsed and killed 9 in the Dominican Republic capital was poorly built

By MARTÍN ADAMES AL-CÁNTARA

Associated Press

**SANTO DOMINGO, Dominican Republic (AP)**

— A concrete wall along an avenue in the Dominican Republic's capital that collapsed over the weekend and killed nine people during heavy rains was poorly designed, experts said Monday.

The government of the Caribbean country has come under scrutiny, with experts saying they had warned more than 20 years ago about the wall's failures and lack of effort to fix them.

"It has weaknesses in the

design," civil engineer Cristian Rojas told The Associated Press. "No anchors were placed, and that is why the

wall collapsed."

Rojas, former president of the Dominican College of Engineers, Architects and



Rescue teams work at the place where a wall collapsed at the entrance of a tunnel in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, Saturday, Nov. 18, 2023.

Associated Press

Surveyors, said the force of the water in a flooded adjacent avenue, combined with the type of wall that was built, led to the collapse.

Dominican geologist Osiris de León recalled that the first warnings about the wall were made more than two decades ago. He posted a story from December 1999 on X, formerly known as Twitter, in which El Siglo newspaper quoted the college recommending that the wall be rebuilt because it was cracked and "it can fall and cause a tragic accident."

The collapse occurred Saturday in Santo Domingo

when a portion of the wall that runs along the heavily transited 27 of February Avenue fell in one piece, crushing cars and their occupants, authorities said.

Among the victims was Puerto Rico prosecutor Michael Orozco, his wife, María Nereida Martínez, and his in-laws, according to Javier Rivera, president of the island's Association of Prosecutors. Martínez was pregnant.

"Comrade Orozco was living a wonderful personal moment with his family, and as a young, committed lawyer, a promising future awaited him," Rivera said. □

## Enjoy one of the best views on Aruba at the top of the Hooiberg Hill

(Oranjestad)—If you are a regular hiker, or maybe want to spice up your morning work out session, then you might enjoy one of the most popular climbing sites on the island: The Hooiberg Hill. Accompanied with a 600-step staircase, this hill overlooks a great part of the island, the Caribbean sea, and sometimes even the Santa Anna



mountain located in the coastal state of Falcon in Venezuela, providing one of the best views you can get on Aruba.

located at the center district of the island, Santa Cruz, the Hooiberg Hill is the second highest point on the island at 165 meters above sea level (or about 540 feet above sea level). The highest point is Jamanota Hill at 189 meters (620 feet), located in the Arikok National Park.

The staircase that run on the side of the hill was first built in 1951, when Mr. Edu-



ardo Tromp constructed it. At that time, the staircase consisted of 900 steps. Over time, as the steps faced erosion, the govern-

ment decided to renovate these stairs in 1991. This new project delivered the newer staircase with only 587 steps. However, don't be fooled—it may still be a work out to get on top. In addition, there is now a gazebo placed halfway up

the stair for a little rest. The view at this resting stop is also a sight to see. The best time to climb the hill would be early in the morning or right before sunset, as it may not be as hot. However, the hill is of course open all day, every day.



### Lessons from our elders:

## Plants and fruits for medicinal use (part 2)

(Oranjestad)—In last week's edition, we shared with our readers some medicinal use for plants and fruits, passed down from our elders through generations. This week, we present two more uses of fruits and plants for medicinal use.

**Sweet potato**  
According to our elders, sweet potato is mostly useful for low blood pressure. People who suffer from low blood pressure were advised to eat sweet potato 2 to 3 times a week. However, if you have high blood pressure, it is best not to eat too much sweet potato, as this raises blood pressure. Sweet potatoes are also great for people who work hard labor jobs, and it's been said to be aid blood circulation in the body, as well as help those with hemorrhoids or diarrhea.

Many of our elders opted to plant sweet potatoes



themselves, mostly because of how easy it was to do so. Cut the end of a sweet potato let it sit in shallow water until it starts to sprout. Then you may plant it in the ground. Sweet potatoes need plenty of water to grow, especially in the first week in the ground. It was said that once you start to notice the ground crack underneath the flowers, it is time to harvest. This should happen around month 3.

**Pomegranate**  
Pomegranates are also one of the easier fruits to plant and harvest. Originated from Persia, this plant can grow almost everywhere. In Aruba, there are many homes that have a tiny or big pomegranate tree. You may be wondering what the difference is between a small and big pomegranate tree, for which the answer is based on harvest time. Tiny trees produce tinier pomegranates that can be harvested early on. Contrarily, big trees produce bigger pomegranates, but they need enough time to fully ripen before harvesting, otherwise you might end up with bitter seeds. Pomegranate trees are also very easy to plant. In essence, if you just throw the seeds on the ground, they could



grow into a tree. In terms of medicinal use,

pomegranate skins are said to have a few benefits for our health. According to customs, pomegranate skin tea can help those that suffer from diarrhea. Dried pomegranate skin tea is also good for people who have worms. Pomegranate flowers can be boiled to

make a drink and this can be used for irritated gums; just take a swig and let the tea sit in your mouth for a couple minutes.

Source: Remedi i Kustumber di nos Bieunan (Medicine and Customs of our Elderly) by Dinah Veeris

NOVEMBER 23<sup>RD</sup> 2023

# Thanksgiving

2023

## APPETIZER

Butternut Squash Soup  
with crème fraiche

## ENTRÉE

Roasted Turkey  
apple brandy turkey au jus  
sausage and sage stuffing,  
duchess garlic potatoes  
baby rainbow carrots, asparagus spears,  
cranberry sauce

Corn Bread

## DESSERT

Pumpkin Spice Cake  
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Sunset Grille's regular menu is also available. For more reservations contact: AUAHH\_SunsetGrille@hilton.com

## Visit the island's popular cave sites!

(Oranjestad)—Among the endless sea of dark brown sand and cacti, there are two caves hidden in the outskirts of San Nicolas, in the north-eastern area of the island. These caves, The Quadiriki cave and The Fontein Cave are open to visitors of the Arikok National Park, so if you ever decide to take an "off-road" tour in the park, be sure to visit these prehistoric caves...and be sure to bring a flashlight!



**Quadirikiri Cave**  
Known for its two chambers accompanied by a skylight, the Quadiriki Cave is the most popular cave among locals and tourists, as it is easy to walk through and provides great lighting for pictures.

As with all prehistoric or ancient sites, there is always a folk legend that adds to the lore and mystery of the site. The Quadirikiri cave is no different. The most well-known legend behind the cave could be considered as Aruba's first love story, as it tells the tale of the undying love between

the chief's daughter and her beloved. As legend would have it, the chief disapproved of his daughter's choice of lover, as he thought him unworthy. Stubborn and filled with anger, the daughter refused to turn away her beloved.

So, the chief decided to lock her up in the Quadirikiri Cave, in hopes that she would soon calm down and turn away her lover. Her beloved, in turn, was locked away in the Tunnel of Love (Now known as the Huliba Cave).

Through the pathways un-

derneath the Tunnel of Love running up to the Quadirikiri cave, the two love birds found each other, and refused to let each other go. Because of their stubbornness, they both died in the Quadirikiri Cave, their ascending spirits burning two holes in the ceiling of the cave. This is why the cave has two holes through which sunlight passes through to illuminate the chamber.

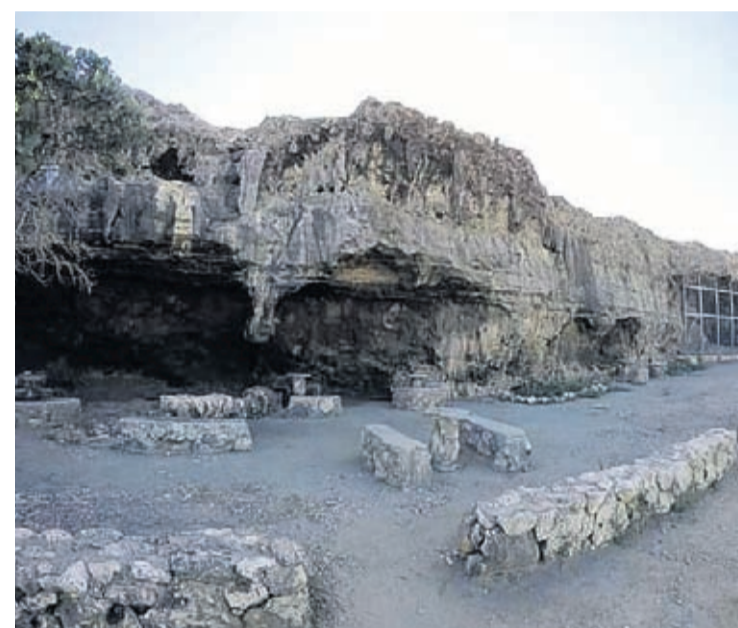
Though there have been discoveries of Amerindian drawing on the wall, these have mostly been ruined by vandalism. However,

the Fontein Cave further up north, provides a better glimpse in prehistoric Amerindian paintings.

**Fontein Cave**  
Longer than the Quadirikiri Cave, the Fontein Cave contains pathways that stretch to the limestone walls further down. Here is also where prehistoric drawings can be seen. Though this cave does not have its own legend, this was speculated to have been occupied—or at least used by prehistoric Arawak settlers on the island for rituals and other spiritual ceremonies.

cave, with a staircase leading up north, provides a better glimpse in prehistoric Amerindian paintings. In one of the chambers, there used to be the carving of the Virgin Mary, put there for the protection of the cave.

However, the Huliba Cave has been permanently closed for a few years now, as a way to preserve the bat population that lives in the cave. These Long Tongue Fruit Bats and Insect Eater Bats are very important to the ecosystem of the island. Though this cave is no longer accessible to the public, it surely is inter-

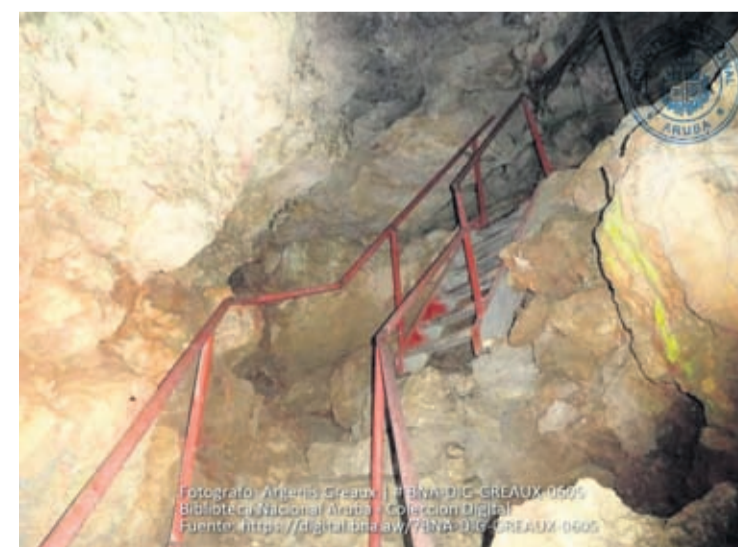


The Huliba Cave/ Tunnel of Love

The Huliba Cave, formerly known as the Tunnel of Love, was once open to the public, and was the biggest and most accessible of all three caves. This cave had five chambers, including one that is heart-shaped. This cave had narrow stairs that led to long pathways deep into the

esting to learn more about the history of these caves and the Awarak tribes that resided or utilized them.

Do note that these caves are very dark, humid, hot, and are inhabited by bats. Do wear comfortable clothing and shoes, as the pathways in these caves may be rough and bumpy, and don't forget to bring a flashlight!



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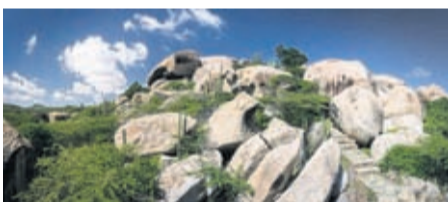


## Ayo & Casibari: Aruba's famous rock formations

(Oranjestad)—The Ayo and Casibari Rock Formations are known locally as one of the crucial sites to have in your "off-road" trip itinerary. These naturally formed rock formations as just one of the few places on the island that hold a rich history of our culture and of our ancestors.

### Ayo

The Ayo Rock Formation is located in the northern part of the island, right on the road that leads you to the Black Stone Beach, and close to the Natural Bridge. The Ayo is



The Ayo Rock Formation



The Ayo Rock Formation

a fenced terrain that consists of several giant boulders, resting neatly on top of or side by side each other, adding gorgeous natural architecture to the surrounding "mondi". This is also one of the few sites to contain prehistoric markings of our indigenous ancestors. The Ayo Rock formation contains stairs that lead you to the top of the highest boulder, offering a breath-taking view of the Aruban backyard. The Ayo is usually quiet, as it is situated farther away from the busier parts of the island. However, this is just another charm

of the site: the quiet area and the refreshing breeze offer a sense of comfort and peace.

### Casibari

Probably the busier rock formation site, the Casibari is situated more in the center of the island, much closer—and more accessible—to the general public. Just like



The Casibari Rock Formation

Ayo, Casibari is a fenced area containing several boulders that lay on top or lean on each other. The best aspect of the Casibari Rock

Formation is the accompanying view when you climb up the top of the round, flat bolder. For this position, you can see the majority of the island and the ocean in the south. Right in front of the entrance, there is the Casibari Café and Grill, a great place to get refreshments and snack before continuing your off-road adventure!

Both sites are open free to the public, 24 hours a day. However, unless you are taking a trip with a professional tour guide, there are no guides at the sites to help you climb the rock. So, do be careful when trudging on the boulders, and make sure to befriend any roaming goats you see along the way!

\*Mondi: what we call our Aruban wilderness. We don't have forests, or deserts, but we do have mondi!

## Aruba to me

**ORANJESTAD — You are back and we would like to portrait you! By inviting you to send us your favorite vacation picture while enjoying our Happy Island.**

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website, Instagram and Facebook page! Thank you for supporting our free newspaper, we strive to make you a happy reader every day again. For today we received a lovely message from Marc and Sharon Winokur from Bensalem, Pa, USA.

They wrote telling us the following beautiful story;

"Last week my wife and I celebrated our 50th wedding anniversary. On our Honeymoon we came to Aruba and have been here a few times since. This our 50th anniversary we are back not only celebrating our anniversary but our son Greg married his sweetheart Susan this past weekend in Aruba at the Riu Palace. I have attached two (2) pictures one taken 50 years ago leaving for Aruba and one taken today 11-13-23.

Sharon is holding a copy of The Local Newspaper, which is 50 years old and I'm holding a current copy of Today. Aruba is an amazing island which brought us much happiness in our marriage and we can only hope it follows Greg and

Susan in there's."

Thank you for sending us this wonderful story about Aruba and how special it is for you and your family.





## Food culture in Aruba

**(Oranjestad) - Like many other cultures, an important aspect of the Aruban cultural identity is our connection to food and food traditions. The local food traditions consist of a melting pot of different cultural and religious eating habits and dishes.**

Breakfast, lunch and dinner

The routine of breakfast, lunch and dinner on the island is one that does not completely follow a European or American routine, despite the major influences from these parts of the world on our culture and way of living. When it comes to the three important meals of the day, most of the Aruban population follows a Latin-American influenced routine.

Breakfast

Breakfast in Aruba is quite simple: a cup of coffee or tea, some bread, and sometimes an egg. Sometimes, due to the need of a quick "to-go" breakfast, you may also find many snack trucks and cafes that sell sandwiches, pastechis (meat pie), arepas and empanadas early in the morning.

Main Meal

The main meal is typically eaten in most households around noon or in the afternoon. This can consist of meat, fish, and chicken—stewed or fried—with funchi (polenta) or rice with stewed vegetables. Often, fried or boiled plantain or pan bati (Aruban pancake) is included. Stews are a staple in Aruban cuisine and can be largely influenced by Latin-American and Latin/Afro-Caribbean Stews. Some of the more unique stews and soups from the ABC Islands\* include sopi di bonchi cora (red kidney bean soup with pig tail), sopi mondongo (tripe soup), carni stoba (beef stew), comcomber stoba (West Indian gherkin stew) and much more.

Dinner Time

Dinner time can vary significantly from household to household. Unlike the U.S. or in Europe, dinner time typically does not consist of a whole (warm) meal. Instead, the evening "meal" can typically consist of something lighter, like a sandwich, though it is not uncommon to see



leftovers from the main meal reheated and eaten again. Tea and coffee are often also served with the evening snack.

(Religious) Holidays

Christmas is probably the biggest global holiday, and every culture has its own spin on what their Christmas cuisine entails. In Aruba,



our Christmas cuisine is again largely based on Latin-American influences, most notably from Venezuela. Ayacas and the famous pan di ham\* are two crucial holiday dishes, along with stuffed turkey, roasted glazed ham topped with pineapples, arroz con pollo (rice and chicken) and potato salad, among other items. Traditional drinks include ponche crema (Aruban eggnog), chuculati pinda (hot chocolate with peanut butter), and homemade fruit punch. Desserts include, bolo di pistachio (pistachio cake), bolo di cashupete (cashew cake), quesillo (flan), bolo preto (dark fruit cake), drigidek (gingerbread), pan boyo (bread cake) and more.

Snacks and tasty delights

Besides meals and dishes that are eaten on the dinner table, Aruba also has a food tradition that includes snacks and other tasty delights that you may easily find around the island. These include, Saco\*, basket, pastechi, kroket, deditos, Johnny cake and more. These snacks are usually sold at local snack trucks and cafes, often located on the side of the road. In the area of Tanki Leendert and Tanki flip, for example, there are many of these trucks parked on the side of the road and often open until late at night—offering tasty and filling snacks post night-life fun.

\*ABC Islands: Aruba, Bonaire and Curacao

\*Pan di ham: Derived from the Venezuelan Pan de Jamon (rolled up bread with ham, raisins and olives)

\*Saco: Saco literally means "bag". Saco contains fried potatoes, plantains, chicken (and ribs) and a Johnny cake, served in a paper bag.

Source: Voeding, voedingsgewoonten en gerechten op Aruba (Nutrition, Food Traditions)



Did you know about...

## Basic driving rules on Aruba (part 2)



(Oranjestad)—In Yesterday's issue, we've provided some basic rules when driving on the four-lane highways and roundabouts on the island. Today, we want to offer you more tips and tricks when it comes to driving on the roads and highways of Aruba.

Speed limit in certain areas



As mentioned in yesterday's issue, the legal minimum and maximum speed limit on the island is 50 and 80 km/h respectively. However, there are some areas where it is mandated to drive up to a certain speed. This is always indicated by a circular traffic sign with red border and the number 50 on it. Signs like these are always paired by a similar sign with the number crossed out further down the road. This means



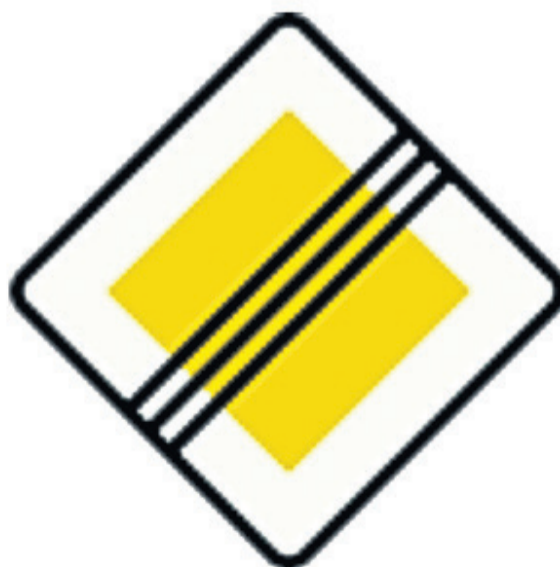
that the mandate for this speed is now over; you may increase your velocity. Red borders on traffic sign—whether it's a circle or triangle—usually signal a warning, prohibition or preference.

Besides the "50" sign, you may also encounter a traffic sign that says "bebouwde kom". These can be found in San Nicolas and Oranjestad. Bebouwde kom signs are rectangular and blue, and essentially tell you that you are in a heavily inhabited area. The maximum speed limit in a bebouwde kom is 50 km/h. Just like the previous pair, bebouwde kom signs are also paired with a similar sign crossed out.

Priority signs



On the main roads of Aruba (not the highways), you may see a yellow, squared sign with a white border. This sign tells you that on this road, you have priority and all other traffic should yield to you. This sign can be seen in Savaneta for ex-



ample. So, if you are driving on the main road in Savaneta going to San Nicolas, you are driving on a single long road, and other cars that want to get on this main road or cross it, either from an intersection or from a dirt road, must all wait until traffic on the main road is clear. In other words, you do not have to stop for them. This sign too has a counter part that indicates that your priority is over.

Another priority sign you may encounter is a triangle sign with a red border and something that looks like a cross. You'll see this sign in an



intersection. The general rule of thumb for crossing an intersection that do not contain traffic lights, roundabouts, sign or arrows on the road, is to always yield for traffic on your right. However, if you encounter this sign on your side of the intersection, you have priority over the other cars, even the one on your right.

However, be careful not to confuse this sign with a similar up-side down triangle, also found on intersections. This sign is a prohibition sign, telling you that you have to stop and give other cars priority. Of course you also have a "stop" sign that mean the same thing. The stop sign is



generally used for tricky intersections with minimal view of opposite incoming traffic. These are some of the basic rules that you would have to know if you decide to drive on the island. These are of course other traffic signs, and we recommend you visit [aruba-travelguide.com](http://aruba-travelguide.com) for an extensive overview of all traffic signs used on Aruba.

Picture credits: [aruba-travelguide.com](http://aruba-travelguide.com)

# CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

## ACROSS

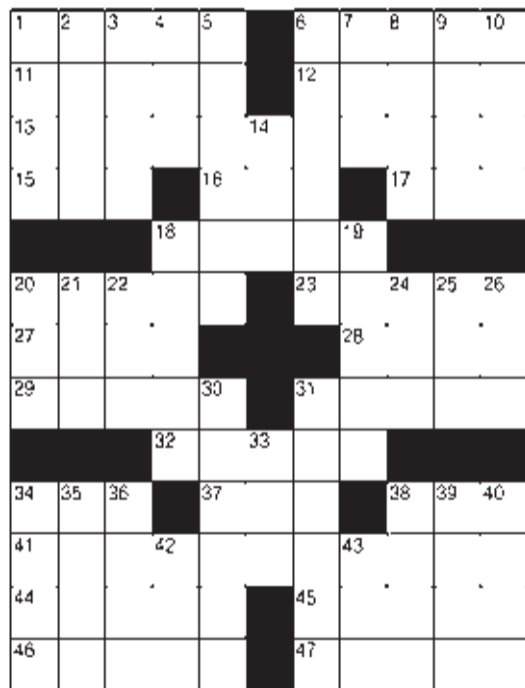
- 1 Transvaal settlers
- 6 Minty drink
- 11 Ohio city
- 12 Battery end
- 13 Some wedding wear
- 15 Shaggy ox
- 16 Sty resident
- 17 Plopped down
- 18 Hive leader
- 20 Repair
- 23 Stuns
- 27 Opera piece
- 28 Despicable
- 29 Forays
- 31 Small, to Simone
- 32 Sales pitch
- 34 Back, on a boat
- 37 Pitcher's stat
- 38 Soak up
- 41 Tracks for equestrians
- 44 Caravan creature
- 45 Some tourneys
- 46 Meaty dishes
- 47 Train stop

## DOWN

- 1 Crib occupant
- 2 Gumbo veggie
- 3 Composer Satie
- 4 Piston connector
- 5 Buy eagerly
- 6 Like rough edges
- 7 First número
- 8 Weather map spots
- 9 Writer Ferber
- 10 Nuisance
- 14 Tell whoppers
- 18 Campus areas
- 19 Belly feature
- 20 Remote
- 21 Lyricist Gershwin
- 22 Noon, on a clock
- 24 Pimple, informally
- 25 Yale student
- 26 Collection
- 30 Joins the bee
- 31 Stir-fry veggie
- 33 Wrath



Yesterday's answer



11-21

AXYDI.BAAXR  
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three I's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

11-21

CRYPTOQUOTE

BTEVAP ECXCIIJ PBVXC YBC

CVXYB. DC WVA SAIJ HXSVCWY

YBC IVAZ. ASY SDA FY.

— WBFCO PCVYYIC

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: EITHER YOU DEAL WITH WHAT IS THE REALITY, OR YOU CAN BE SURE THAT THE REALITY IS GOING TO DEAL WITH YOU. ALEX HALEY

## Taking these financial steps could help post-divorce recovery



A couple watches the sun set from a park, July 10, 2021, in Kansas City, Mo.

Associated Press

By **KIMBERLY PALMER** of NerdWallet

Jamie Lima remembers his divorce six years ago as one of the most emotionally draining and financially challenging experiences of his life. As a result, he resolved to use his professional background as a certified financial planner to help other people going through similar situations.

"I want to make sure other people don't step on the same land mines and be an advocate for them," says Lima, founder of the Ramona, California-based Allegiant Divorce Solutions, a financial planning company that helps people going through divorce.

While the financial aspect of divorce is often overshadowed by the emotional impact, rebuilding finances after the dissolution of a marriage can be an integral part of overall recovery. Lima and other financial experts recommend following these steps to navigate the financial challenges post-divorce:

### ADJUST TO YOUR NEW CASH FLOW

A separation of finances

after a divorce may mean you have to do more with less. "You want to start to look at, 'If I walk away with half the assets and these are my income streams and this is my lifestyle, what will I have to do?'" says Erin Voisin, CFP and director of financial planning at EP Wealth Advisors in Torrance, California. The answer might be changing your spending habits and adapting to a new budget, she adds.

"Your whole timeline of your life might also have to change," says Megan Kopka, CFP and founder of Kopka Financial in Wilmington, North Carolina. You might need to delay retirement or put off a career change, for example. "A lot of people are basing their mortgages and lifestyles on two incomes, so everybody has to reassess" following divorce, she says.

### REBUILD YOUR SAFETY NET

Dominique' Reese, CEO of Reese Financial Services, a financial coaching firm in Los Angeles, says many people also need to rebuild their savings after going through the finan-

cial shock of divorce. She suggests giving yourself microgoals to avoid feeling overwhelmed.

"Everybody's financial situation is different, but you can start off with \$100 and then let's go to \$300, then \$500" and onward, Reese says. While it's ideal to save three to six months' worth of expenses, she acknowledges that amount is impossible for many people and says a smaller goal can be more motivating.

### BUILD CREDIT IN YOUR OWN NAME

Opening bank accounts and credit cards in your name only, if you had not previously done so while married, is also a critical step toward rebuilding finances post-divorce, Voisin says.

"It's important to build credit in your own name," Voisin says, as well as save for retirement in your own account, update your real estate documents to reflect the correct owner, and update any beneficiaries listed on your financial and life insurance accounts. This multistep process can take several months or longer.

While marital status is not reflected on credit reports, getting divorced can indirectly impact your credit because of shared accounts or if you used credit cards only as an authorized user on your spouse's accounts. Post-divorce, it can be a good idea to request your free credit report to make sure it no longer lists your former spouse's accounts or accounts previously held jointly but no longer yours.

### GET HELP FROM EXPERTS

Given how complicated the financial aspect of divorce can be, sometimes turning to professionals can be worth the cost. "Before you hire your attorney, hiring a certified divorce financial analyst to help you with finances and a good divorce coach to guide you through the emotional aspect can help a lot," Lima says. □

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# U.N. report says world is racing to well past warming limit as carbon emissions rise instead of plunge

By SETH BORENSTEIN  
AP Science Writer

Earth is speeding to 2.5 to 2.9 degrees Celsius (4.5 to 5.2 degrees Fahrenheit) of global warming since pre-industrial times, set to blow well past the agreed-upon international climate threshold, a United Nations report calculated.

To have an even money shot at keeping warming to the 1.5-degree Celsius (2.7 degrees Fahrenheit) limit adopted by the 2015 Paris climate agreement, countries have to slash their emissions by 42% by the end of the decade, said the U.N. Environment Programme's Emissions Gap report issued Monday. Carbon emissions from the burning of coal, oil and gas rose 1.2% last year, the report said.

This year Earth got a taste of what's to come, said the report, which sets the table for international climate talks later this month. Through the end of September, the daily global average temperature exceeded 1.5 degrees Celsius above mid-19th century levels on 86 days this year, the report said. But that increased to 127 days because nearly all of the first two weeks of November and all of October reached or exceeded 1.5 degrees, according to the European climate service



AES Indiana Petersburg Generating Station, a coal-fired power plant, operates in Petersburg, Ind., on Wednesday, Oct. 25, 2023. Associated Press

Copernicus. That's 40% of the days so far this year. On Friday, the globe hit 2 degrees Celsius (3.6 degrees) above pre-industrial levels for the first time in recorded history, according to Copernicus Deputy Director Samantha Burgess. "It's really an indication that we are already seeing a change, an acceleration," said report lead author Anne Olhoff of Denmark's climate think tank Concito. "Based on what science tells us, this is just like a whisper. What will be in the future will be more like a roar." It's dangerous already, said UNEP Director Inger Andersen. "Temperatures are hitting new heights, while extreme

weather events are occurring more and more often, developing faster and becoming much more intense," Andersen said. The new report "tells us that it's going to take a massive and urgent shift to avoid these records falling year after year."

The 1.5-degree goal is based on a time period

measured over many years, not days, scientists said. Earlier reports put Earth reaching that longer term limit in early 2029 without dramatic emission changes.

To keep that from happening, the countries of the world have to come up with more stringent goals to cut emissions of carbon dioxide and implement policies to act on those goals, Olhoff said. □

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# 'Please regulate AI:' Artists push for U.S. copyright reforms but tech industry says not so fast



Actor and filmmaker Justine Bateman, right, speaks outside Netflix during a Writers Guild rally on July 13, 2023, in Los Angeles.

Associated Press

By **MATT O'BRIEN**  
AP Technology Writer

Country singers, romance novelists, video game artists and voice actors are appealing to the U.S. government for relief — as soon as possible — from the threat that artificial intelligence poses to their livelihoods.

"Please regulate AI. I'm scared," wrote a podcaster concerned about his voice being replicated by AI in one of thousands of letters recently submitted to the U.S. Copyright Office.

Technology companies, by contrast, are largely happy with the status quo that has enabled them to gobble up published works to make their AI systems better at mimicking what humans do.

The nation's top copyright official hasn't yet taken sides. She told The Associated Press she's listening to everyone as her office weighs whether copyright reforms are needed for a new era of generative AI tools that can spit out compelling imagery, music, video and passages of text.

"We've received close to 10,000 comments," said Shira Perlmutter, the U.S. register of copyrights, in an interview. "Every one of them is being read by a human

being, not a computer. And I myself am reading a large part of them."

## WHAT'S AT STAKE?

Perlmutter directs the U.S. Copyright Office, which registered more than 480,000 copyrights last year covering millions of individual works but is increasingly being asked to register works that are AI-generated. So far, copyright claims for fully machine-generated content have been soundly rejected because copyright laws are designed to protect works of human authorship.

But, Perlmutter asks, as humans feed content into AI systems and give instructions to influence what comes out, "is there a point at which there's enough human involvement in controlling the expressive elements of the output that the human can be considered to have contributed authorship?"

That's one question the Copyright Office has put to the public. A bigger one — the question that's fielded thousands of comments from creative professions — is what to do about copyrighted human works that are being pulled from the internet and other sources and ingested to train AI sys-

tems, often without permission or compensation.

More than 9,700 comments were sent to the Copyright Office, part of the Library of Congress, before an initial comment period closed in late October. Another round of comments is due by Dec. 6. After that, Perlmutter's office will work to advise Congress and others on whether reforms are needed.

## WHAT ARE ARTISTS SAYING?

Addressing the "Ladies and Gentlemen of the US Copyright Office," the "Family Ties" actor and filmmaker Justine Bateman said she was disturbed that AI models were "ingesting 100 years of film" and TV in a way that could destroy the structure of the film business and replace large portions of its labor pipeline.

It "appears to many of us to be the largest copyright violation in the history of the United States," Bateman wrote. "I sincerely hope you can stop this practice of thievery."

Airing some of the same AI concerns that fueled this year's Hollywood strikes, television showrunner Lilla Zuckerman ("Poker Face") said her industry should declare war on what is "nothing more than a pla-

giarism machine" before Hollywood is "coopted by greedy and craven companies who want to take human talent out of entertainment."

The music industry is also threatened, said Nashville-based country songwriter Marc Beeson, who's penned tunes for Carrie Underwood and Garth Brooks. Beeson said AI has potential to do good but "in some ways, it's like a gun — in the wrong hands, with no parameters in place for its use, it could do irreparable damage to one of the last true American art forms."

While most commenters were individuals, their concerns were echoed by big music publishers (Universal Music Group called the way AI is trained "ravenous and poorly controlled") as well as author groups and news organizations including the New York Times and The Associated Press.

## IS IT FAIR USE?

What leading tech companies like Google, Microsoft and ChatGPT-maker OpenAI are telling the Copyright Office is that their training of AI models fits into the "fair use" doctrine that allows for limited uses of copyrighted materials such as for teaching, research or transform-

ing the copyrighted work into something different.

"The American AI industry is built in part on the understanding that the Copyright Act does not proscribe the use of copyrighted material to train Generative AI models," says a letter from Meta Platforms, the parent company of Facebook, Instagram and WhatsApp. The purpose of AI training is to identify patterns "across a broad body of content," not to "extract or reproduce" individual works, it added.

So far, courts have largely sided with tech companies in interpreting how copyright laws should treat AI systems. In a defeat for visual artists, a federal judge in San Francisco last month dismissed much of the first big lawsuit against AI image-generators, though allowed some of the case to proceed.

Most tech companies cite as precedent Google's success in beating back legal challenges to its online book library. The U.S. Supreme Court in 2016 let stand lower court rulings that rejected authors' claim that Google's digitizing of millions of books and showing snippets of them to the public amounted to copyright infringement.

But that's a flawed comparison, argued former law professor and bestselling romance author Heidi Bond, who writes under the pen name Courtney Milan. Bond said she agrees that "fair use encompasses the right to learn from books," but Google Books obtained legitimate copies held by libraries and institutions, whereas many AI developers are scraping works of writing through "outright piracy."

Perlmutter said this is what the Copyright Office is trying to help sort out.

"Certainly this differs in some respects from the Google situation," Perlmutter said. "Whether it differs enough to rule out the fair use defense is the question in hand." □

# Nola's \$172 million, 7-year deal with Phillies includes bonus if traded in 2024 or '25

By AARON BRACY

Associated Press

**PHILADELPHIA (AP)** — Aaron Nola wanted to stay with the Philadelphia Phillies.

"I've always been a Phillie. It's the only place we kind of had our eyes set on," Nola said Monday at Citizens Bank Park, a day after agreeing to a \$172 million, seven-year contract. "It's the most comfortable place for me."

Nola became the first top-level free agent to reach a deal. The 30-year-old right-hander was drafted seventh overall by Philadelphia in 2014 and has been one of the most durable pitchers since his 2015 big league debut.

"Enjoyable and not enjoyable at the same time," he said of free agency, "Not really about the money. Being in a place we want to be for the next seven years. That part is more important for me. We wanted to go through and see what it's about, but ultimately this is the place we wanted to be."

After earning \$16 million this year in a contract that paid \$56.75 million over five seasons, Nola will get yearly salaries of \$24,571,428.

"We have one of the best pitchers in baseball that really fits into our ball-club," Phillies president of baseball operations Dave Dombrowski said. "Sometimes you have to make compromises, you have to go to certain length. You weigh the dollars and length of contract, an individual that's talented, tremendous pitcher, reliable, you know the makeup of the individual, extremely hard worker."

"We want to win. We want to make it happen, and sometimes you have to compromise."

Nola and wife Hunter are expecting their first child. He said he blocked out pending free agency during the season, but the reality that he might not pitch again in Philadelphia hit him after the season.



Philadelphia Phillies baseball team pitcher Aaron Nola takes questions from the media after signing a seven-year contract, Monday, Nov. 20, 2023, in Philadelphia.

Associated Press

"It was kind of tough at the end of the year," Nola said. Nola went 12-9 with a 4.46 ERA in 32 starts with Philadelphia this year, finishing with 202 strikeouts in 193 2/3 innings, then went 3-1 with a 2.35 ERA in four post-season starts.

After losing a six-game World Series to Houston in 2022, the Phillies were eliminated by Arizona in a seven-game NL Championship Series this year after winning the first two games.

"We've gotten pretty close," he said.

"We obviously have the team to do it. It's everybody's in the organization's goal to do that. That was a big reason I came back."

Nola is part of a projected rotation that includes Zack Wheeler, Taijuan Walker, Ranger Suárez and Christopher Sánchez.

"We like our five starters and look like we're set," Dombrowski said.

Nola has made at least 32 starts and pitched at least 180 2/3 innings in five of the last six years the exception the pandemic-shortened 2020 season.

"Stick to my routine and what I've done up to this point," Nola said. "I have some ways I feel like I can

make myself healthy and stay healthy. I hope I age well, for sure. I'm going to do everything I can to stay

durable."

Nola is 90-71 with a 3.72 ERA in 235 starts over nine seasons and has 1,582 strikeouts in 1,422 innings. He had his best season in 2018, when he went 17-6 with a career-low 2.37 ERA in 33 starts and a career-high 212 1/3 innings.

He would get a \$1 million assignment bonus if traded in 2024 or 2025. During the 2025 season, Nola will become a 10-year veteran who has spent five years with his team and will have the right to block trades without his consent.

Nola gets a suite on road trips and would earn \$50,000 bonuses for making the All-Star team, winning a Gold Glove or becoming League Championship Series MVP. He would receive \$100,000 for World Series MVP.

Nola also would get \$100,000 for winning a Cy Young Award, \$50,000 for finishing second in the voting and \$25,000 for third. □

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# 10 favorites found different ways to win Sunday around the NFL

By **ROB MAADDI**

**AP Pro Football Writer**

Dallas dominated. Detroit and Denver rallied. Jacksonville and Buffalo rebounded. San Francisco cruised.

There were few surprise results Sunday as 10 of the 12 favorites won. They got there in different ways.

Add Miami, Cleveland, Houston and the Los Angeles Rams to the list of winners. Only Green Bay and the New York Giants pulled off upsets, slight ones considering their opponents.

The Cowboys clobbering the lowly Carolina Panthers 33-10 was the most predictable outcome. Dak Prescott got to spend another fourth quarter on the sideline as Dallas (7-3) won by more than 21 points for the sixth time in 10 games.

DaRon Bland returned an interception for a touchdown for his fourth pick-6 of the season and Micah Parsons had 2 1/2 sacks. The Cowboys still have a long way to go to catch Philadelphia (8-1) in the NFC East and have a tough schedule with five of their seven remaining games against teams with winning records.

"If you look on paper, a lesser opponent, but we knew we had to come in get going fast and not take them lightly and keep the focus high," Prescott said. "Got the job done. To say it was clean and to say that we did exactly what we



**Dallas Cowboys quarterback Dak Prescott passes against the Carolina Panthers during the first half of an NFL football game Sunday, Nov. 19, 2023, in Charlotte, N.C.**

**Associated Press**

wanted to do, I can't say that. Got to go look at the film, but you'll take the win any way we can get it. It was a good win."

The Lions showed their resilience in a 31-26 comeback victory over Chicago. They trailed the Bears by 12 with three minutes remaining before Jared Goff shook off three interceptions and boos from the home crowd to help Detroit (8-2) head into Thanksgiving with its best record through 10 games since 1962.

The Broncos trailed Minnesota throughout the game after an early field goal but rallied for a 21-20 victory on Russell Wilson's 15-yard touchdown pass to Court-

land Sutton with 1:03 remaining.

Denver (5-5) has turned its season around under first-year coach Sean Payton with four straight wins to climb into the AFC playoff picture. "We've got some momentum. I don't know if I'm ready to groove yet," Payton said.

The Jaguars bounced back from a humbling, embarrassing loss to the 49ers last week with a 34-14 rout over Tennessee. Trevor Lawrence had two TD passes and ran for two scores and the Jaguars (7-3) won for the sixth time in seven games.

The Bills also enjoyed a rout after a tough week that

saw offensive coordinator Ken Dorsey lose his job. They dismantled the Jets 32-6, finally sending Zach Wilson to the bench.

With Joe Brady calling the plays, Josh Allen and the offense got back on track to help Buffalo (6-5) snap a two-game losing streak and get closer in the playoff race.

The 49ers rolled to a 27-14 win against overmatched Tampa Bay. Brock Purdy threw for 333 yards, three TDs and had a first perfect passer rating. San Francisco (7-3) is back to playing at a championship level following a three-game losing streak.

"We can't achieve our

goals or win the Super Bowl in October," 49ers defensive lineman Arik Armstead said. "We want to be playing our best football in November, December, and in January." The Dolphins overcame three turnovers to hand the Raiders their first loss under interim coach Antonio Pierce. The Tua Tagovailoa-Tyreek Hill combination was sensational once again for Miami (7-3) in a game that was close only because the Dolphins were sloppy.

"It's not necessarily a bad game, it's a game that we came up a little short," Dolphins coach Mike McDaniel said about only scoring 20 points in a win.

The Browns relied on their suffocating defense to edge the Steelers 13-10 behind rookie quarterback Dorian Thompson-Robinson. Myles Garrett had two sacks and Cleveland's defense held Pittsburgh to 249 total yards. Despite losing Deshaun Watson for the season, the Browns (7-3) have a defense that can control games and be a factor in the playoffs.

C.J. Stroud threw more interceptions against Arizona than he had all season but still led the Texans to a 21-16 victory. Stroud finished with 336 yards passing, two TDs and three picks.

The upstart Texans (6-4) can move into first place in the AFC South with a victory next week over the Jaguars. □

## Jordan Spieth to finish Rory McIlroy's term on PGA Tour board



**Jordan Spieth walks on the the first tee during the first round of the St. Jude Championship golf tournament Thursday, Aug. 10, 2023, in Memphis, Tenn.**

**Associated Press**

**PONTE VEDRA BEACH, Fla. (AP)** — Jordan Spieth is replacing Rory McIlroy on the PGA Tour policy board and will finish out the term that runs until the end of next year.

McIlroy, the first international player elected to the board, said last week he no longer felt he had the time and energy to serve his final year of what has been a period of turmoil on the PGA Tour as it fought and then proposed a partnership with Saudi backers of

LIV Golf.

PGA Tour Commissioner Jay Monahan announced the move to players on Monday morning. Golf Channel first reported his memo. Spieth was the unanimous choice of the five other board members. He now joins Tiger Woods, Patrick Cantlay, Charley Hoffman, Webb Simpson and Peter Malnati. Hoffman goes off the board next year and is succeeded by Adam Scott. "Something had to give and there's guys that are

on that board that are spending a lot more time and a lot more energy on it than I am," McIlroy said. "It's in good hands and I felt like it was the right time to step off." Spieth previously served a three-year stint on the policy board from 2019 through 2021, during the COVID-19 pandemic and the early threat from a Saudi-funded rival league. "Jordan has extensive experience with the tour's governance process," Monahan said. □